United Nations A/C.2/57/SR.37

General Assembly
Fifty-seventh session
Official Records

Distr.: General
11 November 2003
English
Original: French

Second Committee

Summary record of the 37th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 18 November 2002, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Suazo ..... (Honduras)

Contents

Agenda item 12: Report of the Economic and Social Council (*continued*)

Agenda item 87: Environment and sustainable development (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (*continued*)

Agenda item 43: Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children (*continued*)

Agenda item 90: Training and research (*continued*)

(a) United Nations University

Organization of work

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

02-70213 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 12: Report of the Economic and Social Council (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Carpio Govea** (Venezuela) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.39 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and drew particular attention to paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Agenda item 87: Environment and sustainable development (*continued*)

Draft resolution on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its seventh special session (A/C.2/57/L.40)

2. **Mr. Vallenilla** (Venezuela) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.40 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and drew attention to the fifth and eighth preambular paragraphs. He pointed out that the operative part of the draft resolution contained a series of directives concerning what UNEP must do in order to contribute to sustainable development programmes while protecting the environment.

Draft resolution on activities undertaken in preparation for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003 (A/C.2/57/L.41)

3. **Mr. Alimov** (Tajikistan) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.41 on behalf of the sponsors, Japan and the Russian Federation, and drew attention to the first preambular paragraph and to paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7.

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (*continued*)

Draft resolution on the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/C.2/57/L.38)

4. **Mr. Vallenilla** (Venezuela) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.38 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and emphasized the importance of the World Summit on Sustainable Development held recently in Johannesburg, South Africa, in the context of the major United Nations conferences and summit meetings held since the start of the new millennium. It was unfortunate that, 10 years after the Rio Conference, so little progress had been made towards implementing Agenda 21.The international community must intensify its efforts to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 21 in accordance with the programme outlined in 1992. He drew particular attention to the second, fourth, fifth, sixth and ninth preambular paragraphs. Concerning paragraph 1 regarding the report on the Summit, he welcomed the news that a revised version was planned that would take into account the comments made regarding the form. The draft resolution sought to start a process that would make it possible to accelerate the implementation and follow-up of Agenda 21 in the coming years.

Agenda item 43: Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children (*continued*)

5. **The Chairman** recalled that the item had been the subject of a series of consultations with the Third Committee and that the Chairman of that Committee had felt that the General Assembly should consider it in plenary at the fifty-eighth session. He therefore proposed that the Committee should adopt the following decision: "The General Assembly decides that agenda item 43 entitled "Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children" should be considered by the plenary of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

6. *It was so decided.*

7. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said it was unfortunate that the text of that decision had not been submitted to the Committee in writing, in accordance with the Committee's established practice.

8. **The Chairman** said that the text would be included in the summary record of the current meeting.

9. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that he accepted the decision in question but recalled that, pursuant to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, any text submitted to an organ of the General Assembly for adoption must be distributed in all the official languages of the United Nations no later than the day before the meeting. He hoped that, in future, that would be taken into account.

Agenda item 90: Training and research (*continued*)

(a) United Nations University (A/57/589)

10. **Mr. Pomerand** (Director, Office at the United Nations, New York), introducing the report of the

Secretary-General (A/57/589) concerning measures to improve the communications and interaction between the University and other bodies in the United Nations system said that it should be considered in conjunction with the report of the Council of the United Nations University (A/57/31), one entire section of which dealt with that subject.

11. The report reviewed four areas of activity: the contribution of the University to the various world conferences of the United Nations; its participation in standing processes in the United Nations and, in particular, its support for the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council; the University's research programmes into governance, peace and security, sustainable development and the environment; and coordination and interaction between the University and the United Nations system.

12. It was clear from the report that the University was strengthening its collaboration with other bodies in the United Nations system and increasing its contribution to the activity of the Organization. Furthermore, it was focusing its efforts on the main centres of interest of the United Nations and was establishing mechanisms that would enable it to adapt to the Organization's changing priorities.

Organization of work

13. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of the items allocated to it by the General Assembly and that informal consultations would begin on the draft resolutions that had yet to be adopted. While acknowledging that the Committee had a considerable workload at the current session, he recalled the arrangements that had been made to facilitate informal consultations and negotiations, notwithstanding the budgetary constraints, and asked delegations to make the most of the time allotted so that the Committee might complete its work by 6 December 2002, as scheduled.

14. **Mr. Vallenilla** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, thanked the Chairman for the arrangements, which had made things much easier for everyone. The Group of 77 and China would do whatever it could to enable the Committee to complete its work on time.

15. **Mr. Christensen** (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the previous speaker and reaffirmed its support for the Chairman's efforts, and he stressed the need to complete the work by the appointed deadline.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.